

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of ) **MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**  
Shigeyuki Akimoto et al. )  
Application No.: 10/556,916 ) Group Art Unit: 2624  
Filed: November 15, 2005 ) Examiner: Vanchy Jr., Michael J.  
For: OUTER SURFACE-INSPECTING )  
METHOD, MASTER PATTERNS ) Confirmation No.: 1621  
USED THEREFOR, AND OUTER )  
SURFACE-INSPECTING )  
APPARATUS EQUIPPED WITH )  
SUCH A MASTER PATTERN )

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 12, 2008, please amend the  
above-identified patent application as follows: